

**Ranking Member Tom Davis  
Opening Statement**

**“Republican Views and Estimates on the  
President’s FY2008 Budget Proposal”**

**Wednesday, February 28, 2007  
10:00 a.m.**

**Room 2154 Rayburn House Office Building**

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The submissions of budget views and estimates by authorizing committees marks the first official step in the annual federal budget process after the President submits his proposal to Congress. I appreciate your willingness to accommodate our Republican views on the budget into the Committee’s overall views.

I believe the President’s proposal is a laudable attempt to balance the funding needs of federal programs against the tight fiscal environment of the times. From federal support of D.C. programs to federal information technology initiatives aimed at reducing duplicative systems, many aspects of the President’s budget are based on the hard work conducted by this Committee in overseeing government operations.

In particular, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight three issues that are discussed in our Republican views.

First, I appreciate the Chairman's commitment to moving forward with H.R. 401, the National Capital Transportation Amendments Act, which I introduced along with Members of the regional delegation in January. This important legislation would reaffirm the federal government's longstanding commitment to help fund the capital improvement and maintenance needs of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority. I also appreciate the majority's willingness to work with us on various issues aimed at improving quality of life in the Nation's Capital and the National Capital Region generally.

Second, I would like to take the opportunity to publicly express my appreciation for the President's unprecedented focus on making federal agencies more efficient. After many years of dogged persistence, it appears the Administration's focus on improving agency management practices may finally be making some headway. In addition to continued progress made by federal agencies on the President's "management scorecard," I support the President's proposal to establish commissions to consider overlap and duplication in government as well as the Administration's Program Assessment Rating Tool, which tracks programs' success in meeting their missions.

Third, I am disappointed the President's budget contains no explicit funding for implementation by the states of the Real ID Act. Congress expressly authorized the appropriation of federal funds to support the States in implementing the requirements of the Act. Therefore it is troubling to me that no federal assistance was proposed in the budget, especially since the Homeland Security Secretary has stated publicly that issuance of regulations to implement the legislation is imminent. As you know, Chairman Waxman, I have requested that you hold a hearing to examine the costs of meeting the standards and determine whether and how much federal support is warranted.

Thank you again for the opportunity to highlight some important issues related to the funding of federal departments and agencies. I look forward to working with you on these important issues as the budget process continues.